Supreme Court, U.S.
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No. _____

In the Supreme Court of the United States

CLARENCE JAY LYNCH,
PETITIONER,

V.

GENE JOHNSON, DIRECTOR,
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS,
RESPONDENT.

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

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QUESTION PRESENTED

DOES A CONVICTED, INCARCERATED FELON HAVE A RIGHT UNDER THE CONSTITUTION TO BRING HIS LEGITIMATE CLAIMS BEFORE THE COURTS THROUGH THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS, AFTER THE STATUTORY TIME HAS PASSED, WHEN THE CAUSE FOR THE DELAY WAS NOT WITHIN THE CONTROL OR DIRECTION OF THE PETITIONER?*

(* Argument is confined to the procedure employed to deny access to relief via habeas corpus. Gonzales v. Crosby, 545 U.S., 125 S.Ct. 2641 (2005); Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 60(b)(6)).

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I. OPINIONS BELOW

All opinions of the Virginia courts, the United States District Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit appear as exhibits at Appendices A to L.

II. JURISDICTIONAL STATEMENT

The United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit denied appeal in this matter originally brought in federal district court under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 60(b). (Clarence Jay Lynch v. Gene Johnson, Director, Virginia Department of Corrections, W.D.Va. Case No. 7:05cv000480-jlk-mfu).

Primary jurisdiction to bring the 60(b) action was derived from an earlier filing of habeas corpus by a prisoner in state custody under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. (Clarence Jay Lynch v. Gene Johnson, Director, Virginia Department of Corrections, 05-7815/CA-05-480 on April 23, 2006. This Court has denied certiorari in that matter on February 20, 2007).

This Court has approved an extension of time to file petition for writ of certiorari until on or before July 22, 2007 (Exhibit K of the Appendix). (All relevant documents related to all recommendations, decisions, and orders of the state and federal district and appellate courts are found in the appendix to this petition).

Jurisdiction of this Supreme Court is invoked under 28 U.S.C. § 1254(1).

III. CONSTITUTIONAL & STATUTORY PROVISIONS INVOLVED IN THIS CASE

The United States Constitution

The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it. U.S. Const. Art. I § 9, cl. 2

The judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. U.S. Const. Art. III, § 1.

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed []; and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense. U.S. Const. Amend. VI.

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law, which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. U.S. Const. Amend. XIV §1.

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure

Rule 60. Relief from Judgment or Order

(b) Mistakes; Inadvertence; Excusable Neglect; Newly Discovered Evidence; Fraud, Etc. On motion and upon such terms as are just, the court may relieve a party or a party's legal representative from a final judgment, order, or proceeding for the following reasons: (1) mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect; (2) newly discovered evidence which by due diligence could not have been discovered in time to move for a new trial under Rule 59(b); (3) fraud (whether heretofore denominated intrinsic or extrinsic), misrepresentation, or other misconduct of an adverse party; (4) the judgment is void; (5) the judgment has been satisfied, released, or discharged, or a prior judgment upon which it is based has been reversed or otherwise vacated, or it is no longer equitable that the judgment should have prospective application; or (6) any other reason justifying relief from the operation of the judgment. The motion shall be made within a reasonable time, and for reasons (1), (2), and (3) not more than one year after the judgment, order, or proceeding was entered or taken. A motion under this subdivision (b) does not affect the finality of a judgment or suspend its operation. This rule does not limit the power of a court to entertain an independent action to relieve a party from a judgment, order, or proceeding, or to grant relief to a defendant not actually personally notified as provided in Title 28, U.S.C., § 1655, or to set aside a judgment for fraud upon the court. Writs of coram nobis, coram vobis, audita querela, and bills of review and bills in the nature of a bill of review, are abolished, and the procedure for obtaining any relief from a judgment shall be by motion as prescribed in these rules or by an independent action.

Title 28 U.S.C. § 2244

(b)(2) A claim presented in a second or successive habeas corpus application under section 2254 that was not presented in a prior application shall be dismissed unless

(B)(i) The factual predicate for the claim could not have been discovered previously through the exercise of due diligence; and

(ii) The facts underlying the claim, if proven and viewed in light of the evidence as a whole would be sufficient to establish by clear and convincing evidence that, but for the constitutional error, no reasonable fact finder would have found the applicant guilty of the underlying offense.

(d)(1) A 1-year period of limitation shall apply to an application for a writ of habeas corpus by a person in state custody pursuant to a judgment of a State court. The limitation shall run from the latest of--

(B) the date on which the impediment to filing an application created by State action in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States is removed, if the applicant was prevented from filing by such State action;

(D) the date on which the factual predicate of the claim or claims presented could have been discovered through the exercise of due diligence.

(2) The time during which a properly filed application for State post conviction or other collateral review with respect

to the pertinent judgment or claim is pending shall not be counted toward any period of limitation under this subsection.

Code of Virginia § 18.2-248.1 (1950)

Penalties for sale, gift, distribution or possession with intent to sell, give or distribute marijuana. -- Except as authorized in this Drug Control Act, Chapter 34 of Title 54.1, it shall be unlawful for any person to sell, give, distribute or possess with intent to sell, give, or distribute marijuana.

(a) Any person who violates this section with respect to:

(3) More than five pounds of marijuana is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment of not less than five or more that 30 years.

If such person proves that he gave, distributed or possessed with intent to give or distribute marijuana only as an accommodation to another individual and not with intent to profit thereby from any consideration received or expected nor to induce the recipient or intended recipient of the marijuana to use or become addicted to or dependent upon such marijuana, he shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

(c) Any person who gives, distributes or possesses marijuana with the intent to manufacture such substance, not for his own use is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment of not less than five nor more than 30 years and a fine not to exceed $10,000.

The Virginia Constitution

§ 9. Prohibition of excessive bail and fines, cruel and unusual punishment, suspension of habeas corpus, bills of attainder, and ex post facto laws.

------- That excessive bail ought not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted; that the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended unless when, in cases of invasion or rebellion, the public safety may require... Virginia Const. Art I, §9.

Virginia Statute Governing the Writ of Habeas Corpus Reads, In Relevant Part:

§ 8.01-654. When and by whom writ granted; what petition to contain.

-- A. 1. The writ of habeas corpus ad subjiciendum shall be granted forthwith by the Supreme Court or any circuit court, to any person who shall apply for the same by petition, showing by affidavits or other evidence probable cause to believe that he is detained without lawful authority.

2. A petition for writ of habeas corpus ..., other than a petition challenging a criminal conviction or sentence, shall be brought within one year after the cause of action accrues. A habeas corpus petition attacking a criminal conviction or sentence... shall be filed within two years from the date of final judgment in the trial court or within one year from either final disposition of the direct appeal in state court or the time for filing such appeal has expired, whichever is later. Code of Virginia § 8.01-654(A) (1) and (A) (2).

IV. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

A. Background

This criminal case arose on September 9, 1999, when Roanoke City Police Officers executed a search warrant of Petitioner Lynch's residence. Lynch was ultimately indicted for the manufacture of marijuana not for his personal use in violation of Virginia Code § 18.2-248.1(c).

Pretrial suppression motion was made by Lynch through counsel. Lynch argued that the marijuana found in his residence should be excluded for two reasons, both undermining probable cause for the issuance of a search warrant: (1) the tip to police from a concerned citizen was uncorroborated and (2) thermal imaging was employed to support probable cause along with the anonymous tip of this concerned citizen. Lynch argued that individually neither one of these two sets of facts would have gone to support probable cause independently, stacking them together would not meet the threshold either.

The issue was taken on to direct appeal, especially in light of a contemporaneous Supreme Court holding that the employ of a thermal imaging device to support probable cause created a presumption of an unreasonable search. Kyllo v. United States, 533 U.S. 27 (2001).

The court disagreed with Lynch. In the view of the trial court, the exception in United States v. Leon, 468 U.S. 897 (1984) applied, allowing police to execute an otherwise

flawed search warrant and preserve evidence for trial where the warrant was gained by police in good faith. Id. The Court of Appeals disagreed with Lynch, affirming the decision of the trial court. Commonwealth v. Lynch, 39 Va.App. 89, 570 S.E.2d 871 (2002)

Subsequent to the suppression hearing two significant events transpired. First, Lynch decided to represent himself at trial, without the assistance of counsel; and second, another judge was assigned to the case just prior to the start of trial. Judge Jonathan M. Apgar was replaced with Judge Robert P. Doherty, where Judge Apgar was said to have been previously scheduled for another trial elsewhere in the county. Against continuous objection from the defense, that this switch was supported under the law, the trial continued as scheduled with the new judge. (T.Trans. 02/06/01 at 24). Lynch objected to the change to this new judge because of an alleged conflict of interest between Lynch and the new Judge Doherty, that the change was unsupported and indeed in violation of Virginia law. Lynch argued that the change represented a conflict with Virginia Code § 17.1-501.

Lynch's primary focal point in making his complaint was judicial bias. It was Lynch's contention that Judge Doherty was biased against him personally because when the judge was a practicing attorney his client at that time was one of the complainants labeled as anonymous tipsters. To Lynch, and to a casual observer, this new direction in the trial process appeared to be orchestrated to ensure a conviction for Mr. Lynch. This being the case, Lynch believed his right to a fair trial would be compromised by the continued presence of this judge.

The first trial ended in a mistrial. Judge Doherty held Lynch in contempt of court and sentenced him to 10 days in jail for what the judge deemed as Lynch's disruption and

inability to follow the rules as interpreted by Judge Doherty. (T.Trans. 02/14/01). At the retrial, Lynch again objected to Judge Doherty presiding, the objection was again overruled. Throughout these proceedings, neither the Commonwealth nor the Court offered any explanation for the failure of Judge Apgar to take the case in retrial, despite his apparent availability to do so. (T.Trans. 04/12/01 at 11-13).

At the new trial the Commonwealth again introduced evidence seized pursuant to the contested search warrant. It also offered testimony of two expert witnesses whose testimony was that the marijuana found was inconsistent with personal use. At the close of the Commonwealth's case, Lynch moved to strike the evidence. The motion was denied. (T.Trans. 04/03/01 at 89-92).

Mr. Lynch had suffered long-term pain from an old back injury. Lynch had gone into the trial prepared to present an affirmative defense to explain that the marijuana's intended use was as medication for Lynch's chronic back pain and that he did not sell the marijuana to anyone else, i.e. that he was not a dealer of marijuana. The trial court would not allow evidence of Lynch's medical need and the court frustrated Lynch's attempts whenever he endeavored to present evidence of this to the jury, nor did the court instruct the jury on the accommodation defense, a status which would have resulted in a considerably reduced sentence if Lynch were to be convicted of the charge. (T.Trans. 04/03/01 at 100-101). The jury convicted Lynch of the charged offense. The matter of the accommodation, that Lynch possessed the drug not for profit, but solely for his own use, was not presented to the jury. The court sentenced Lynch to a 10-year term of imprisonment recommended by the jury, and further attached a maximum $10,000 fine. (T.Trans. 04/03/01 at 164).

Direct appeal brought claims of:

1. Whether the trial court erred in denying Lynch's motion to suppress the fruits of the search of his residence when the search warrant was based upon the anonymous tips of informants whose reliability was not established, and upon the use of thermal imaging device surveillance.

2. Whether the trial court erred in denying Lynch's motion for recusal over the conflict of interest; in particular, the conflict created by Judge Doherty presiding over the first trial, the contempt hearing, and the second trial when another judge was available; (3) whether manifest injustice existed in the presentation of expert testimony that the quantity of marijuana involved would be inconsistent with personal use; and (4) whether there was sufficient evidence that the defendant manufactured marijuana not for personal use. The matter was denied by the Virginia Court of Appeals on October 15, 2002 via published opinion. Commonwealth v. Lynch, 570 S.E.2d 871 (Va.App. 2002). Mandate from the Virginia Supreme Court was issued on March 5, 2003. (No. 02-2611).

Federal habeas corpus followed under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. (No. 7:03cv00230 W.D. Va.). At this juncture two claims were brought by counsel for Lynch: (1) That the court erred in denying Lynch's motion to suppress the marijuana evidence when such evidence was gained by anonymous tips of untested informants and the employ of a thermal imaging device, and (2) that the trial court erred in its refusal to recuse. This habeas corpus petition was denied on 07/22/03. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals denied a certificate of appeal ability on 01/09/04. (Record No. 03-7270).

During this entire period of time from sentencing onward to his appeal of the habeas action in the Court of Appeals at the federal level, Lynch was held either in the local Roanoke City Jail or in the Virginia Department of Corrections receiving unit where, in both locations, necessary information concerning state and federal filing requirements for post-conviction actions were not available to him. Nor did his counsel at any time inform him of any requirements or limitations, or explain the difference between a direct appeal and a petition for habeas corpus. As far as Lynch knew, the federal action was nothing more than a continuation of his direct appeal to a federal level. Requests for information from state officials in this time also proved negative.

Once Lynch received word that his appeal was denied at the federal appellate level, Lynch was transferred to a Virginia prison and assigned to the general population. It was not until this time that Lynch was able to access regular law library facilities there. It was not until this time that Lynch was able to begin his understanding of the state of affairs of his legal battle. There, he was to learn the difference between direct appeal and habeas corpus, and it was only after the state time limitations had expired, and the first habeas petition had been filed in federal court barring any second petition, that he was able to discover this very vital information.

Once he was aware of this he immediately filed for state post-conviction relief under Virginia Code § 8.01-654. In the state habeas corpus petition, Lynch raised the following claims:

1. That it was a violation of defendant's right to due process under the Virginia and U.S. Constitutions when the trial court allowed the defendant to

proceed without counsel and to represent himself at trial, when waiver of counsel was not knowingly or intelligently entered under the law and defendant was incompetent to act in capacity of counsel, court abused its discretion to the prejudice of the defendant.

2. It was error and a violation of defendant's due process protections under both the Virginia and U.S. Constitutions for trial to continue against the defendant's objections protesting the judge's display of clear bias against the defendant.
3. The defendant was denied a fair trial before an impartial, neutral jury when the defense was denied the opportunity to present evidence supporting an affirmative defense posture, defense was denied right to jury by court's refusal to allow jury instruction on affirmative defense and defense of accommodation, further denying due process.
4. Counsel on appeal was ineffective under the Sixth Amendment when counsel failed to argue the due process and jury violations on direct appeal.
5. Counsel was also ineffective for failing to argue the defense of accommodation on behalf of his client at sentencing thereby converting his felony conviction into that of a misdemeanor.

The Commonwealth responded in defense to this action that Lynch was time-barred from filing his petition. Lynch argued that the timing was correct if the court would consider equitable tolling of any overage in filing times.

In support of this position Lynch gave evidence of his incarcerated state, he explained the special housing circumstances existing at the jail and in the receiving unit at the Department of Corrections, and elucidated on the limits these placed upon his access to legal information crucial to filing.

Lynch explained how counsel had filed a federal post-conviction action instead of a state action first, all directly interfering with his ability to properly place his issues squarely before a court of competent jurisdiction in the timely manner required by statute and showing how he was entirely reliant upon the word and advice of third parties for his information about filings in court.

In this case those third parties were the operators of the City Jail where Lynch was originally held, the operators of the Department of Corrections Receiving Unit at Powhatan, and his lawyers Anthony Anderson, Melissa Friedman, and later, Harvey J. Lutins. Lynch also argued that any failure on the part of the state to allow equitable tolling in this matter would effectively deny him access to the writ of habeas corpus in violation of constitutional guarantees. He argued that tolling should have applied especially during the period when his federal habeas corpus was pending, and that to do otherwise violates the spirit of the limitations period. In spite of this however, the Circuit Court for the City of Roanoke denied Lynch's petition on September 17, 2004.

Lynch, however, did take a lead from this Court's decision in Gonzales v. Crosby, 545 U.S., 125 S.Ct. 2641 (2005), and filed a motion under Rule 60(b), confining his argument to the procedures that were employed to deny his federal and state habeas corpus petitions. Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 60(b)(6).

The District Court denied this motion on 07/06/06. (Civil Action No. 7:05cv00480). Appeal of this matter was also denied by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals on February 22, 2007. (Unpublished Opinion)Record No. 06-7223).

B. Statement of The Facts

Local police raided Mr. Lynch's home on September 9, 1999. The police executed a search warrant for illegal marijuana. Tips of anonymous and unreliable informants and the aid of a thermal imaging device supported the probable cause. The police discovered marijuana growing and in various stages of harvest throughout the residence. Lynch protested the search pretrial on grounds that probable cause was deficient. Despite Lynch's protests of illegal search Lynch faced trial with the seized marijuana used to aid the prosecution's case in chief anyway.

Mr. Lynch's first trial ended in mistrial. In both the first and second trial, Lynch proceeded in both instances pro se, without counsel.

Petitioner Lynch was ultimately convicted in a second jury trial before a Virginia circuit court of the charged offense, a felony of manufacturing marijuana not for his personal use. Virginia Code § 18.2-248.1(c); (City of Roanoke Circuit Court, # CR-99-001615, July 2, 2001).

Evidence in this case did not show at any time that Lynch made any profit or gain what-so-ever from the marijuana growing in his home.

Under Virginia law an exception does exist in particular circumstances to reduce the level of offense from a felony to that of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Lynch, being a novice in law, knew nothing of this exception. Lynch did hire counsel for the sentencing hearing, but apparently counsel missed the exception also. As a result, Lynch was not able to benefit from this statutory bonus and was therefore sentenced to the 10-year jury-recommended term of imprisonment a felon

who grows marijuana for profit would receive instead of the 1-year or less deserving of the misdemeanant.

Lynch appealed his case directly raising issue about the search, and about a bias the trial judge had toward Lynch personally. It was this bias that Lynch believed had tilted the balance against him at trial. This matter was brought before the appellate court to no avail. Lynch's appeal was denied in a published opinion. Commonwealth v. Lynch, 570 S.E.2d 871 (Va.App. 2002). Virginia Supreme Court denied his appeal. (No. 02-2611, March 5, 2003).

Lynch's counsel then proceeded with a filing for federal habeas corpus on the issues claimed in the state appellate courts. This avenue also failed for Mr. Lynch. Counsel never advised Lynch of what he would forfeit should be proceed directly to federal habeas corpus after direct review at the state level, bypassing state habeas corpus. Lynch never knew there was a difference; he believed at the time that his attorney was doing nothing more than filing a next-level appeal that just happened to be in a federal court instead of a state one. At no time was Lynch informed of any time limits, or any one-bite only opportunities for filing federal or state writs of habeas corpus. Counsel never explained what a writ of habeas corpus was.

During the entire time, from sentencing to completion of his federal habeas corpus, Lynch was held either in jail, or in the restrictive receiving unit of the prison system. Assignment to general population did not come for Mr. Lynch until after the federal habeas corpus route was completed. It was not until this time that Lynch was free to gain access to, and employ, first-hand knowledge of what rules may have applied to his filings. Until this time, Lynch was dependent upon advice of counsel, and the limits the jail and the receiving unit placed upon his access to legal

information. None of these conditions allowed him to learn of the AEDPA or the other limitations he would be held responsible for.

Following the exhaustion of these claims at the federal circuit appellate level, Lynch filed a state habeas corpus locally in Roanoke Circuit Court.

Claims raised in this petition argued that Lynch should not have had to face a second trial with the same judge who declared a mistrial earlier, the very same judge who held Mr. Lynch in contempt of court. Mr. Lynch argued that as a result of this judicial bias and resulting judicial misconduct, he was denied a fair trial. This was the case especially since this court repeatedly denied Lynch the ability to present the defense of his choice, an affirmative defense to the marijuana cultivation. Mr. Lynch argued also that he should not have been allowed to proceed on his own, that his level of performance in the first trial was so deficient that the court should not have allowed the second trial to proceed with Lynch acting as his own attorney, particularly when the ineptness of Lynch's defense continued into the second trial. The final habeas claim was based on a Virginia statute, which allows for the reduction of the offense level when the marijuana involved in the crime was not grown or offered to another for any compensation or profit. Lynch's case fit this description perfectly and Virginia law does make an exception in such cases. No evidence was given at trial, and no one claimed, that Lynch had ever given the marijuana to anyone for profit or consideration.

This being case, Lynch was eligible to have his felony conviction converted to a misdemeanor. The result applying this exception to Lynch's sentencing would have required that Lynch receive a 90% reduction in his sentence. But, as Lynch claimed in his habeas corpus petition, neither he (a

legal novice), nor his hired attorney (a professional), or the courts, brought this issue up at any time. As a result, the claims went, counsel was constitutionally ineffective at sentencing under the standard set forth in Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668 (1984). Counsel was also alleged to have been ineffective for failing to raise the due process claims and the Sixth Amendment counsel claims on appeal.

But Lynch's circuit court habeas corpus petition was denied. The Court reasoned that Lynch should not be able to benefit from equitable tolling of the filing date because Lynch had failed to show that he relied upon the advice of another to his detriment in filing. (Revised ORDER denying petition, 09/24/04, Exhibit E). Lynch of course took exception to this finding because in fact Lynch had given voluminous evidence on the issue of how he was unfairly hindered from filing properly, all attributable to that of third parties.

Lynch appealed this issue, reasserting his initial claims, to the Virginia Supreme Court and the appeal was denied. (Exhibit F).

Lynch then took the issues to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Roanoke Division, asserting that federal constitutional violations occurred in his trial and his sentencing, and that the state court denied him access to the writ of habeas corpus via an unfair assessment of the facts of this case. The federal court, however, did not reach the merits of the claims and instead ruled his petition successive and dismissed the petition without prejudice. (Exhibit G).

The issue of the second or successive nature of the §2254 petition was taken to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in two forms: (1) as an appeal of the district court's Order

(Record No. 05-7815), and (2) on application to proceed with a second or successive §2254 petition (Record No. 06-0394). The Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit denied both filings: the appeal portion was denied on 04/27/06, and the application portion was concluded on 04/28/06 via a denial of the Court to grant the opportunity to file a motion for reconsideration. The Court invoked 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(E) and LOCAL RULE 22(d) to accomplish this. (Exhibit H).

Lynch followed these actions with a motion in U.S. District Court under Rule 60(b) of the Civil Rule of Procedure. The matter was denied by the District Court; and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. (Record No. 06-7223).

V. ARGUMENT

A. Summary

DOES A CONVICTED, INCARCERATED FELON HAVE A RIGHT UNDER THE CONSTITUTION TO BRING HIS LEGITIMATE CLAIMS BEFORE THE COURTS THROUGH THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS, AFTER THE STATUTORY TIME HAS PASSED, WHEN THE CAUSE FOR THE DELAY WAS NOT WITHIN THE CONTROL OR DIRECTION OF THE PETITIONER?

The United States Constitution is a marvel of simplicity and yet its depth is immeasurable. Because of this simplicity in style, it is the belief of Americans in general that the United States Constitution means what it says. That the meaning of a word, or a guarantee, is plainly what it is, that it says what it means. It is the belief of Americans that the words of the

Declaration of Independence are equally true to their universal meaning: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among them is life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, Governments are instituted, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." It is also equally understood that the courts do have the authority to interpret these words in the application of law, "according to its true intent and meaning when it was adopted." Scott v. Sanford, 60 U.S. (19 How.) 393, 406 (1856). But this authority does have its limits; after all, one cannot simply make a dog a cat by calling it something different.

Yet that is what appears to have happened to many of the rights and guarantees agreed upon by the people in the formation of this constitutional compact, this "consent of the governed". It is generally undisputed by the People that the right of habeas corpus—or rather, the right to petition for the writ—has long been celebrated as the most efficient safeguard of the liberty of the citizen. Yet this key political freedom, the door by which one accesses all other rights to one's freedom from prison, has been removed through interpretation by the courts and Congress. Like children having an unsanctioned house party while the parents are out, the courts and Congress have taken advantage of the public's trust. Through the labyrinth of legal terms which serve little but to cloak the true actions of the powers-that-be from the public, many of the courts and Congress have placated the wants of these powerful individuals, eroding by evisceration those rights the people agreed upon when adopting this compact, or opting in on it. Now it appears that the people have become subjects in their own land, subordinated by a small elite group of the powerful who have come to think it all unproblematic to call a dog a cat and get away with it.

This petition does not seek to correct the many wrongs that have been allowed to pass through the duplicity of these powerful individuals; it does seek however that the guarantee of habeas corpus be honored. That the right to petition for the writ of habeas corpus be restored to its full, original meaning--"The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it." U.S. Const. Art I, section 9. Where a person held in restraint, in jail or prison, or by the courts in any other fashion restrained, have the ongoing right to petition the court at any time for a determination of the constitutionality of that restraint.

B. Detail

This case in particular comes from one person, held in unusual circumstances, who has been denied his day in court. He has been denied a fair access to the courts through habeas corpus, and he has thus far been denied a review of this block by denial of his legitimately-filed motion under Rule 60(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. This, even after this very court stated in Gonzales v. Crosby that a motion filed under Rule 60(b) that did not attack the underlying state conviction, but merely addressed the means by which these claims were blocked, would not offend the variety of prohibitions on filings enabled by Congress by the AEDPA.

Under current law, Title 28 U.S.C. 2254, state prisoners may obtain collateral review of their criminal convictions by filing an application for a writ of habeas corpus in federal district court. Prisoners, however, must first exhaust available state court remedies. 28 U.S.C. 2254(b)(1)(A) and (c); see generally Rhines v. Weber, No. 03-9046 (Mar. 30, 2005). Title I of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (AEDPA), Pub. L. No. 104-132, 110

Stat. 1217, worked substantial changes in the availability of federal habeas corpus relief. See generally Felker v. Turpin, 518 U.S. 651, 656 (1996). Of relevance here, Section 106 of AEDPA (codified at 28 U.S.C. 2244) imposed strict constraints on the filing of repeat—second or successive—challenges to state convictions, creating a "modified res judicata rule" for federal habeas corpus proceedings. Felker, 518 U.S. at 664. Section 2244(b)(1) imposes an absolute bar on a habeas corpus application that raises claims that were already presented in a prior application. With respect to claims that were not presented in the initial application, Section 2244(b)(2) requires their dismissal unless the new claim "relies on a new rule of constitutional law, made retroactive to cases on collateral review by the Supreme Court, that was previously unavailable," 28 U.S.C. 2244(b)(2)(A), or "the factual predicate for the claim could not have been discovered previously through the exercise of due diligence" and the facts underlying the claim could establish "by clear and convincing evidence that, but for constitutional error, no reasonable factfinder would have found the applicant guilty of the underlying offense," 28 U.S.C. 2244(b)(2)(B)(i) and (ii). AEDPA also imposed a one-year statute of limitations on filing applications for federal habeas corpus relief from state court convictions. See 28 U.S.C. 2244(d); Pliler v. Ford, 124 S. Ct. 2441, 2445 (2004); Carey v. Saffold, 536 U.S. 214, 220 (2002). Although there are limited exceptions, the time limit generally begins running at the conclusion of direct review of the criminal judgment. See 28 U.S.C. 2244(d)(1)(A). The running of the limitations period is tolled, however, during the pendency of "a properly filed application for State post-conviction or other collateral review." 28 U.S.C. 2244(d)(2).

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(b)(6) authorizes courts to relieve a party in civil litigation from a final judgment for "any other reason justifying relief from the operation of the judgment." This court's opinion in Gonzales v. Crosby, 545

U.S. ____ (2005); 125 S. Ct. 961 (2005), made clear that claims such as those raised in Mr. Lynch's Rule 60(b) motion were allowed, and yet the courts have failed to recognize this in this case.

Separating a prisoner from necessary legal materials and essential legal information appears as an unfortunate consequence of a prison or a jail administration's need to create a controlled environment for detaining possibly dangerous individuals. How far, though, can a prison policy go before it goes too far to restrict unnecessarily, needlessly a prisoner's right to access the courts? In this particular case the argument is made that that line was crossed, thus depriving the petitioner of a legitimate right to petition for habeas corpus. The matter is important for this Supreme Court because of the growing number of rejections prisoner petitions receive from courts on mere procedural grounds. Petitioner does not believe that the Congressional intent was to place form over substance by depriving prisoners of access to writs of habeas corpus for mere procedural blunders or mere lack of knowledge of what has become a complex labyrinth of rules post-AEDPA.

During very critical times when necessary filing information was needed by Mr. Lynch, he was held in jail, and later in a prison receiving unit, away from the legal materials he would need to inform himself of time limits and filing requirements for habeas corpus petitions. He was represented by counsel during this time, but was misled and misinformed by the attorney.

The attorney filed the wrong action in the wrong court--at the wrong time. But Lynch knew no better, all Lynch could do is rely upon his attorney to advise him of what to do. But for this reliance upon counsel, and Lynch's forced reliance on jailers and prison operators to provide him access

to essential legal information, Lynch would have filed timely and properly.

But after all was done, Lynch was held responsible for his attorney's error. Lynch was the only person forced to accept the responsibility for these errors, yet it was Lynch who was held in restrictive jail or prison custody the entire time.

The State Limitations

Under Virginia common law a statutory time limitation can be tolled if the applicant shows by "clear and precise and unequivocal evidence that he relied to his detriment upon an act or statement of the other part to refrain from taking action within the required statutory period." Finnerty v. Thornton Hall, Inc., 42 Va.App. 628, 640 (2004).

Lynch provided exactly this evidence as required under Virginia law. Yet the Virginia court denied Lynch equitable tolling. This Supreme Court held in the case of Lee v. Kemna, 534 U.S. 362 (2002) that an accused's imperfect, but substantial compliance with court rules would not be an adequate state ground to bar federal habeas corpus review. (Id. at 366-367). The same advantage should have been offered to Lynch in his second federal §2254 filing: before drawing the conclusion that the petition was successive and then dismissing the petition, the court should have looked to the merits of the claims, questioned whether "cause" could be employed to excuse the first filing, and it should have granted the writ. United States v. Frady, 456 U.S. 152 (1986).

The federal court should have recognized that the state court had violated Lynch's Fourteenth Amendment Due Process rights in denying the chronologically second, but for AEDPA purposes a first, petition since the argument was made out in the court documents.

The Federal Limitations

In this case the petitioner made it very clear in his memorandum in support of his §2254 petition that he was hindered by state action from knowing about the AEDPA time limitations or the AEDPA's one opportunity for filing a petition before the expiration of that time, or before the first petition had already been filed by counsel.

Under federal law, equitable tolling would apply to allow for a delayed petition once "cause" for the delay was established. The Fifth Circuit has found in at least one instance that state created impediment, by virtue of limiting an inmate's access to pertinent AEDPA limitations information, could support "cause" to at least require the court to find specially whether or not in fact the petitioner "was aware of the existence of AEDPA prior to the expiration of the one-year limitation period." 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1)(B); Egerton v. Cockrell, 334 F.3d 433, 437 (5th Cir. 2003).

Although the Egerton case was limited to the time limitations aspect of the AEDPA, the parallel exists also if the lack of knowledge issue turns on whether or not a petitioner was aware that he could only file one, and only one, petition. This becomes particularly important when the petitioner's counsel filed the wrong petition in the wrong court, all while the client was unaware of existing law.

Moreover, "cause" could draw from attorney error even when no constitutional right to counsel exists. In Simmons v. Lockhard, 915 F.2d 372, 376 (8th Cir. 1990), that court found "cause" for a procedural default to exist even when no "right" to counsel exists. Here, counsel was also part of the "impediment" to Lynch's properly filed petition.

For the reasons stated, Mr. Lynch should not have had his chronologically second petition automatically relegated to that of a second for AEDPA purposes, but first the court should have made findings specially as to whether Mr. Lynch had genuinely been denied this important AEDPA knowledge through state created impediment and third party error through counsel.

Moreover, for the purpose of the guarantee that the right to access habeas corpus will not be withdrawn or suspended, except in extraordinary circumstances not existing now or in this case, Mr. Lynch should be granted his day in court fairly in accord with that guarantee.

VI. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Mr. Lynch respectfully requests that the court grant this petition for writ of certiorari

Done this 19th day of July 2007.

Clarence Jay Lynch, Petitioner Pro Se
Pulaski Correctional Center
Post Office Box 1188
Dublin, Virginia 24084-1188

No. _____

In the Supreme Court of the United States

CLARENCE JAY LYNCH,
PETITIONER,

V.

GENE JOHNSON, DIRECTOR,
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS,
RESPONDENT.

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

APPENDIX TO PETITION

CLARENCE JAY LYNCH, PETITIONER PRO SE
PULASKI CORRECTIONAL CENTER
POST OFFICE BOX 1188
DUBLIN, VIRGINIA 24084-1188

Exhibit A: Direct Appeal Denied, 10/15/02 (Comm. v. Lynch, 39 Va. App. 89, 370 S.E. 2d 871)

PUBLISHED

COURT OF APPEALS OF VIRGINIA

Present: Judges Annunziata, Bumgardner and Frank Argued at Salem, Virginia

CLARENCE JAY LYNCH

v. Record No. 1874-01-3

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

OPINION BY JUDGE RUDOLPH BUMGARDNER III OCTOBER 15, 2002

FROM THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF ROANOKE
Robert P. Doherty, Jr., Judge

Melissa W. Friedman (Anthony F. Anderson, on brief), for appellant.

Marla Graff Decker, Assistant Attorney General (Jerry W. Kilgore, Attorney General, on brief), for appellee.

A jury convicted Clarence Jay Lynch of manufacturing marijuana not for personal use. He assigns two errors: (1) the admission of evidence seized pursuant to a search warrant, and (2) the failure of the trial judge to recuse himself.

Finding no error, we affirm.

On May 17, 1999, a concerned citizen notified police the defendant was growing marijuana in his residence at 925 Westside Boulevard N.W. The citizen had seen 30 to 50 marijuana plants and grow lights in the residence as recently as "06[sic]0199." On July 28, 1999, a second concerned citizen notified police the defendant was growing and selling marijuana from his residence. He reported the defendant "had numerous firearms in the residence and threatened to use them if he came in contact with the police." The police verified the defendant's identity and address from the city directory and Department of Motor Vehicles records. Police conducted a power consumption analysis from the electric utility's records for the defendant's residence. Over the previous six-month period, the defendant consumed three times more power than neighbors, who resided in similar houses. The defendant's power consumption coincided with the cultivating and harvesting cycle of marijuana. Additionally, the police twice used a thermal imaging device and detected an extreme heat source at the rear of the residence.

The investigating detective recited those details in an affidavit for a search warrant of the defendant's residence that he prepared on September 9, 1999. A magistrate issued the warrant that evening, and police officers executed it shortly thereafter. The defendant moved to suppress the marijuana plants, related evidence, and incriminating statements obtained during the search.

The trial court held the evidence was admissible under the good faith exception of United States v. Leon, 468 U.S. 897 (1984), even assuming the affidavit was deficient or the warrant was invalid. The trial judge ruled: the magistrate did not abandon his judicial role; the police officers were not

dishonest or reckless in preparing the affidavit and did not mislead the magistrate; the warrant is not so lacking in probable cause or the required information as to render belief in its existence unreasonable; and the warrant was not so facially deficient that the executing officers could not reasonably assume it was valid.

On appeal, the defendant contends the trial court erred in applying the good faith exception to the exclusionary rule. He argues the thermal imaging surveillance of his residence was unconstitutional[1] and the results must be excised when assessing the validity of the search. He concludes that without the results of the thermal imaging the affidavit was facially deficient and reliance on it was unreasonable.

As did the trial court, we do not address the validity of the search warrant because the good faith exception applies to the facts of this case. The good faith exception is not available in four situations:

> (1) [W]here the magistrate was misled by information in the affidavit which the affiant knew was false or should have known was false, (2) the issuing magistrate totally abandoned his judicial role, (3) the warrant was based on an affidavit "so lacking in indicia of probable cause" as to render official belief in its existence unreasonable or (4) where the warrant was so facially deficient that an executing officer could not reasonably have assumed it was valid.

Adkins v. Commonwealth, 9 Va. App. 462, 464, 389 S.E.2d 179, 180 (1990) (citing Leon, 468 U.S. at 923). Only the

[1] Kyllo v. United States, 533 U.S. 27 (2001), ruled thermal imagery was an unconstitutional search. The Supreme Court rendered its decision after the defendant's suppression hearing and trial, but before sentencing.

third or fourth exceptions could apply in this case, but neither does.

The affidavit stated that two concerned citizens observed the marijuana plants inside the defendant's home. The police corroborated that the defendant existed and resided at the address provided. A detailed power consumption analysis of the residence revealed the defendant used an unusual amount of power, which correlated with the marijuana cultivation cycle. The investigation tended to corroborate the information provided by the citizen informants. Even excluding the information derived from thermal imaging, the affidavit did not lack indicia of probable cause. The third exception to the good faith doctrine does not apply to this case.

At the time the magistrate issued the warrant, the Supreme Court had not decided Kyllo v. United States, 533 U.S. 27 (2001). Indeed, every United States Circuit Court that had addressed the issue had ruled that the use of the thermal imagery was permissible. Id. at 46 n.4 (Stevens, J., dissenting). The magistrate and officers were entitled to rely on the results of that surveillance technique when determining probable cause for the search warrant. They adhered to established law, and requiring them to anticipate the constitutional standard announced in Kyllo is not reasonable.

When the officers conducted their search, they acted under authority of an apparently valid warrant. "[A]n officer cannot be expected to question the magistrate's probable-cause determination or his judgment that the form of the warrant is technically sufficient." Leon, 468 U.S. at 921. Though partially based on information derived from thermal

imaging, the warrant was not so facially deficient that the officers were unreasonable in assuming it was valid. The fourth exception to the good faith doctrine does not apply to this case.

"The purpose of the exclusionary rule historically was to deter police misconduct rather than to punish the errors of magistrates. This deterrent is absent where an officer, acting in objective good faith, obtains a search warrant from a magistrate and acts within the scope of the warrant." Derr v. Commonwealth, 242 Va. 413, 422, 410 S.E.2d 662, 667 (1991) (citation omitted). None of the evils sought to be avoided by the exclusionary rule are present in this case. The trial court did not err in denying the defendant's motion to suppress the evidence obtained from execution of this search warrant.

Next, we consider whether the trial judge erred by refusing to recuse himself. Judge Apgar presided at the suppression hearing. By the time the trial began, he had been assigned to a different court within the circuit. Judge Apgar denied a motion to continue the case until he could preside. Judge Doherty conducted the trial during which the defendant represented himself. Judge Doherty declared a mistrial and found the defendant in contempt for misconduct that disrupted his trial. Judge Doherty denied a motion to have Judge Apgar preside at the retrial.

The defendant contends Code § 17.1-503 [2] mandates

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[2] Code § 17.1-503 provides in part:

No rule shall hereafter be promulgated which would avoid or preclude the judge before whom an accused is arraigned in criminal cases from hearing all aspects of the case on its merits, or to avoid or preclude any judge in any case who has heard any part of the case on its merits, from hearing the case to its conclusion. However, another judge may hear

that the judge who hears a preliminary matter hear the entire case. The statute forbids a rule of the Supreme Court that would preclude a judge from hearing a case to its conclusion. It simply does not read as the defendant contends. The defendant contends the trial judge had a conflict of interest because he was a former law partner of the defendant's first attorney whom the defendant discharged. He maintains the judge was biased because he held the defendant in contempt during the first trial. After a full hearing on the motion to recuse, the trial judge stated he did not have "any sort of conflict" and denied the motion.

Whether a judge should recuse in a given case rests within the exercise of reasonable discretion. Deahl v. Winchester Dep't Soc. Servs., 224 Va. 664, 672, 299 S.E.2d 863, 867 (19B3) . The judge's decision will not be reversed absent a showing that he abused his discretion. In Stockton v. Commonwealth, 227 Va. 124, 141, 314 S.E.2d 371, 382 (1984), the trial judge did not abuse his discretion in not recusing after the defendant had cursed him during the previous trial. In Justus v. Commonwealth, 222 Va. 667, 673, 283 S.E.2d 905, 908 (1981), the trial judge did not abuse his discretion when he retried the defendant after his first capital murder conviction was reversed.

The defendant provided no support for his claim of conflict and bias, and none appears from the record. The record provides no indication that the trial judge abused his discretion in not recusing himself. The trial court did not err in denying the motion to do so.

---

portions of a case where a judge is required to disqualify himself, in cases in which a mistrial is declared, or in cases in which have been reversed on appeal, or in the event of sickness, disability or vacation of the judge.

For the reasons stated, we affirm the conviction.

Affirmed.

8 Appendix

Exhibit B: Virginia Supreme Court,
Denial of Direct Appeal 03/05/03

VIRGINIA:

In the Supreme Court of Virginia held at the Supreme Court Building in the City of Richmond on Wednesday the 5th day of March, 2003.

Clarence Jay Lynch
Appellant'

Against: Record No. 022611
Court of appeals No. 1874-01-3

Commonwealth of Virginia,
Appellee.

From the court of appeals of Virginia

Upon review of the record in this case and consideration of the argument submitted in support of the granting of an appeal, the court refuses the petition for appeal.

A Copy,

Teste:
David B. Beach
Clerk

By: s Shaun L. Ully
Deputy Clerk

10 Appendix

Exhibit C: First § 2254 Petition Denied 07/22/03

ENTERED 7/22/03

CLERK'S OFFICE
U.S. Dist. Court
AT ROANOKE, VA
FILED
JULY 22, 2003
JOHN F. CORCORAN, CLERK
BY: s_____

IN THE UNITED STATED DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
ROANOKE DIVISION.

CLARENCE JAY LYNCH, Petitioner	Case No. 7:03cv00230
v.	ORDER
GEORGE M. McMILLAN, Respondent,	By: Jackson L. Kiser Senior United States District Judge

In this habeas corpus action, respondent McMillian has moved [No, 3-1] to dismiss the petition. For the reasons stated in the accompanying memorandum opinion, the respondent's motion is GRANTED and this case is DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE. Any other pending motions are dismissed as moot. The Clerk is directed to strike this case from the active docket.

The Clerk shall send a copy of this order and memorandum opinion to counsel of record.

Entered this 22 day of July, 2003.

s_____
Senior United States District Judge

A TRUE COPY TESTE
JOHN F. CORCORAN, CLERK

BY: s_____
DEPUTY CLERK

Exhibit D: Appeal of § 2254 Denial Refused by Fourth Circuit, 01/12/04

RECEIVED
JAN 12, 2004

UNPUBLISHED

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

No. 03-7270

CLARENCE JAY LYNCH
Petitioner- Appellant

versus

GEORGE M. McMILLAN,
Sheriff, Roanoke City,
Respondent – Appellee

Submitted: December 19, 2003 Decided: January 9, 2004

Before WIDNER, WILKINSON, and DUNCAN, Circuit Judges

Dismissed by unpublished per curium opinion

John Emmette Pilgreen, IV, Harvey Lutkins, LUTINS & PILGREEN, P.C., Roanoke, Virginia, for Appellant. Amy L. Marshall, OFFICE OF THE ATORNEY GENERAL OF BIRGINIA, Richmond, Virginia, for Appellee.

Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this circuit. See Local Rule 36(c).

PER CURIAM:

Clarence Jay Lynch seeks to appeal the district court's order denying relief on his petition filed under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (2000). The order is appealable only if a circuit justice or judge issues a certificate of appealability. 28 U.S.C. § 2253 (c)(1) (2000). A certificate of appealability will not issue absent "a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253 (c)(2) (2000). A prisoner satisfies this standard by demonstrating that reasonable jurist would find that his constitutional claims are debatable and that any dispositive procedural ruling by the district court is also debatable of wrong. See Miller-El v. Cockrell, 537 U.S. 322, 336 (2003); Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000); Rose v. Lee, 252 F.3d 676, 683 (4th conclude that Lynch has not made the requisite showing.

Accordingly, we deny a certificate of appealability and dismiss the appeal. We dispense with oral argument because the facts and legal contentions are adequately presented in the materials before the court and argument would not aid the decisional process.

DISMISSED

Exhibit E: Part I - State Court Denies Habeas Corpus Petition 09/17/04

VIRGINIA

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE
CITY OF ROANOKE

CLARENCE JAY LYNCH #319339
Petitioner

v. Case No: CL04000604

GENE JOHNSON, DIRECTOR
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS
Respondent

ORDER

Upon mature consideration of the pleadings and exhibits, and a review of the record in the criminal case of Commonwealth v. Clarence Jay Lynch, which is hereby made a part of the record in this habeas corpus matter, the Court is on the opinion that the petitioner is not entitled to the relief sought.

Specifically, the court finds that all of petitioner's claims attacking his conviction for the manufacture of marijuana not for personal use are barred by the statute of limitations as provided by Code § 8.01-654(A)(2). Petitioner had until March 5, 2004 (one-year form conclusion of his direct appeal to file his petition. Lynch did not file his petition until June 7, 2004, which was months beyond the expiration of the statute of limitations. Further, there is nothing in the

language of code § 8.01-654(A)(@) which permits tolling during the pendence of his general habeas proceeding See Duncan v. Walker, 533 U.S. 167 (2001).

It is, therefore, ADJUDGED and ORDERED that all of petitioner's claims are hereby denied and dismissed as untimely, to which action of this Court the petitioner's exceptions are noted.

IT IS FURTHER hereby ordered that the Clerk serve my mail certified copies of this Order on the petitioner and on Amy L. Marshall, Assistant Attorney General, counsel for respondent.

Enter this 17th day of September 2004

/s/ Robert P. Doherty Jr.
Judge

I ask for this:

/s/ Amy L. Marshall
Amy L. Marshall
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Counsel for Respondent

A COPY TESTE BRENDA S. HAMILTON,
CLERK
By /s/ _____ Deputy Clerk

Exhibit E: Part II - Revision Order 09/21/04

VIRGINIA

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF ROANOKE

CLARENCE JAY LYNCH, PETITIONER	ORDER
v.	CL04-604R
GENE JOHNSON, DIRECTOR, VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS RESPONDENT	

Upon the Court's own motion, this matter is reopened and reinstated on the Court's docket. A final order in this case denying the Petitioner's Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus was entered on September 17, 2004. Thereafter, on September 20, 2004, the court received Petitioner's REPLY IN OPPOSITION TO THE COMMONWEALTH'S MOTION TO DISMISS. Therefore, the Court does vacate its final decision of September 17, 2004, denying the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus in order to consider the argument made by the petitioner in his motion to dismiss.

Petitioner argues that the statute of limitations should not apply to him simply because e chose to proceed with a federal habeas corpus petition rather than proceed with a state habeas corpus petition in a timely manner. The

petitioner argues "equitable tolling' of the statute of limitations, citing numerous federal cases. The federal cases cited by the Petitioner deal with the construction of a federal statute. In Virginia, "statutes of limitations are strictly enforced and exceptions thereto are narrowly construed. Consequently, a statute should be applied unless the General assembly clearly crates an exception, and any doubt must be resolved in favor of the enforcement of the statute." Finnerty v. Thornton Hall, Inc. 42 Va. App. 628, 640 (2004). For the Court to allow equitable tolling or to estop the Commonwealth from asserting the statute of limitations, "a claimant must show by clear, precise and unequivocal evidence that he relied to his detriment upon an act of statement of the other party to refrain from taking action within the statutory periods." Id. At 640-641. In this case there is no detrimental reliance. The running of the statute of limitations occurred because, according the Petitioner, he not understand the law. "[I]gnorance of the law is no excuse, and everyone is conclusively presumed to know the law – that is, he is estopped from denying such knowledge . . ." King v. Empire Collieried Company, 148 Va. 585, 590 (1927). See also Shea v. Virginia, State Bar Disciplinary Board, 236 Va. 442, 444 (1988).

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth in its original order of September 17, 2004, and in this order, the Court again denies the Petitioner's Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus, and the September 17, 2004, order is hereby reinstated.

And the Clerk of this Court is ORDERED to certify a copy of this order to each counsel of record and to the Petitioner.

And nothing further remaining to be done this cause, the same is ORDERED stricken form the docket of this Court.

Enter: This 21st day of September. 2004

s Robert Doherty Jr.
Judge

A copy teste Brendan S. Hamilton
Clerk
By: s_____
Deputy Clerk

20 Appendix

Exhibit F: Virginia Supreme Court Denies Appeal on Habeas Corpus Petition, 04/06/05

VIRGINIA

In the Supreme Court of Virginia held at the Supreme court building in the City of Richmond on Wednesday the 6th day of April, 2005.

Clarence Jay Lynch
Appellant,

Against: Record No. 042847
Circuit Court No. CL04-604

Gene Johnson, Director, Virginia
Department of Corrections,
Appellee.

From the Circuit Court of the
City of Roanoke

Upon review of the record in the case and consideration of the argument submitted in support of the granting of an appeal, the Court is of opinion there is no reversible error in the judgment complained of. Accordingly, the Court refuses the petition for appeal.

A Copy,
Teste:

Patricia L. Harrington, Clerk
By: /s/ _____
Deputy Clerk

22 Appendix

Exhibit G: Second § 2254 Petition
Denied 09/30/05

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA ROANOKE DIVISION

CLARENCE JAY LYNCH, Petitioner,	Civil Action No. 7:05-cv-00480
v.	**DISMISSAL ORDER**
GENE .IOHNSON, Respondent.	By: Hon. Jackson L. Kiser Senior United States District Judge

The petitioner, Clarence Jay Lynch, a Virginia inmate proceeding pro se, filed this action as a petition for a writ of habeas corpus, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. However, court records indicate that tile petitioner previously filed a § 2254 petition challenging the same conviction, Civil Action No. 7:03-cv-00230. Therefore, the petitioner's current petition is a subsequent one, falling under the provisions of the amendments to federal habeas statutes regarding subsequent or successive petitions. See Title I, Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104- 132, 110 Stat. 1214 (1996). Pursuant to these amendments, this court may consider a second or successive § 2254 petition only upon specific certification from the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit that the claims in the petition meet certain criteria. See 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b).

Because the petitioner has not submitted any evidence of such certification by the Fourth Circuit, it is now ORDERED that the petition shall be and hereby is **DISMISSED** without prejudice as successive

The petitioner is hereby advised of the procedure for obtaining certification from the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit to have this court review a successive § 2254 petition. The petitioner must submit a copy of a successive § 2254 petition to the Fourth Circuit along with a motion requesting a three-judge panel certification that the district court may review the successive petition. See 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b). A Fourth Circuit form and instructions for filing this motion will be included with this notice and are available from the Fourth Circuit at the following address: Office of the Clerk, United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 900 E. Main St., Richmond, VA 23219.

The Clerk is directed to send certified copies of the order to the petitioner and counsel of record for the respondent, if known.

ENTER: This 30th day of September, 2005

/s/_____
Senior United Stated District Judge

Exhibit H: Appeal and Application to proceed with a Second or Successive Petition Denied by Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals
Part 1

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE

FOURTH CIRCUIT

FILED
April 20, 2006

No. 06-394

In Re: CLARENCE JAY LYNCH , Movant

ORDER

Movant has filed a motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 2244 for authorization to file a successive application for relief.

The Court denies the motion.

Entered at the direction of Judge Duncan with the concurrence of Judge Wilkinson and Judge Traxler.

For the Court,

/s/ Patricia S. Connor

_____

CLERK

26 Appendix

Exhibit H: Appeal and Application to proceed with a Second or Successive Petition Denied by Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals
Part 2

JUDGMENT
FILED: April 27, 2006

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
For the Fourth Circuit

No. 05-7815
CA-05-480

CLARENCE JAY LYNCH

Petitioner - Appellant

v.

GENE JOHNSON, Director,
Virginia Department of Corrections,

Respondent – Appellee

Appeal from the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia at Roanoke

---

In accordance with the written opinion of this Court filed this day, the Court denies a certificate of appealability and dismisses the appeal.

A certified copy of this judgment will be provided to the District Court upon issuance of the mandate. The judgment will take effect upon issuance of the mandate.

/s/ Patricia S. Connor

CLERK

Exhibit H, Cont.
UNPUBLISHED

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

No. 05-7815

CLARENCE JAY LYNCH,
Petitioner - Appellant,

versus

GENE JOHNSON, Director,
Virginia Department of Corrections,
Respondent - Appellee.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia, at Roanoke. Jackson L. Kiser, Senior District Judge. (CA-05-480)

Submitted: April 7, 2006 Decided: April 21, 2006

Before WILKINSON, TRAXLER, and DUNCAN, Circuit Judges.

Dismissed by unpublished per curiam opinion.

Clarence Jay Lynch, Appellant Pro Se.

Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this circuit. See Local Rule 36(c).
PER CURIAM:

Clarence Jay Lynch seeks to appeal the district court's order dismissing as successive his petition filed under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (2000).* An appeal may not be taken from the final order in a habeas proceeding unless a circuit justice or judge issues a certificate of appealability. 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c) (1) (2000). A certificate of appealability will not issue for claims addressed by a district court absent a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c) (2) (2000). A prisoner satisfies this standard by demonstrating that reasonable jurists would find that the district court's assessment of his constitutional claims is debatable or wrong and that any dispositive procedural ruling by the district court is likewise debatable. See Miller-El v. Cockrell, 537 U.S. 322, 336 (2003); Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000); Rose v. Lee, 252 F.3d 676, 683 (4th Cir. 2001). We have independently reviewed the record and conclude that Lynch has not made the requisite showing. Accordingly~ we deny a certificate of appealability and dismiss the appeal. We dispense with oral argument because the facts and legal contentions are adequately presented in the materials before the court and argument would not aid the decisional process.

DISMISSED

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*Although the notice of appeal was filed more than thirty days after the district court's decision, the appeal is deemed timely because there was no separate document reflecting the entry of judgment, as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 58. See Hughes v. Halifax County Sch. Bd., 823 F.2d 832, 835 (4th Cir. 1987)

Exhibit I,
DENIAL OF RULE 60(b) MOTION
AT THE DISTRICT COURT LEVEL
JULY 6, 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA ROANOKE DIVISION

CLARENCE JAY LYNCH
Petitioner,
v.

Civil Action No. 7:05CV00480
ORDER

GENE JOHNSON,
Respondent.

By: Hon. Jackson L. Kiser
Senior United States District Judge

The petitioner. Clarence Jay Lynch, a Virginia inmate proceeding pro se, filed this action as a petition For writ of habeas corpus, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254, on July 29, 2005. By order entered September 30, 2005, the petition was dismissed as successive. Lynch appealed the dismissal of the petition to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. The appeal was dismissed on May 25, 2006. Lynch has now filed a motion for relief under Rule 60(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Having reviewed Lynch's motion, the court remains convinced that the petition was properly dismissed. Moreover, because Lynch's motion is "nothing more than a request that the ... court change its mind" with respect to its earlier ruling, "it is not authorized by Rule 60(b)." United States v. Williams, 674 F.2d 310, 313 (1982). Accordingly, it is hereby

ORDERED

that Lynch 's motion is **DENIED.**

The Clerk is directed to send certified copies of this order to the petitioner and counsel of record for the respondent.

ENTER: This 6th day of July, 2006

[signed]
Senior United States District Judge

Exhibit J:
NOTICE OF APPEAL IN RE RULE 60(b) MOTION

In the United States District Court
For the Western District of Virginia (Roanoke Division)

CLARENCE JAY LYNCH,
Movant/Petioner,

v. CASE NO. 7:05-CV-00480

GENE JOHNSON, DIRECTOR
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS,
Respondent.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Comes now, Clarence Jay Lynch, pro se, and gives NOTICE to this court of his intentions to appeal to the Fourth Circuit Court of appeals this Court's denial of his Fed. R.Civ.P. Rule 60(b)(6) motion, denied or dismissed by this court on July 6, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence Jay Lynch

Clarence Jay Lynch

Exhibit K: 06-7223:
DENIAL OF APPEAL FROM RULE 60(b) MOTION
FEBRUARY 22, 2007

UNPUBLISHED

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE
FOURTH CIRCUIT

No. 06-7223

CLARENCE JAY LYNCH,
Petitioner - Appellant,

v.

GENE JOHNSON, Director,
Virginia Department of Corrections,
Respondent - Appellee.

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Western District of Virginia, at Roanoke

Jackson L. Kiser, Senior District Judge. (7:05-cv-00480-jlk)
Submitted: February 15, 2007 Decided: February 22, 2007
Before NIEMEYER, KING, and DUNCAN, Circuit Judges.

Dismissed by unpublished per curiam opinion.
Clarence Jay Lynch, Appellant Pro Se.
Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this
circuit.

PER CURIAM:

Clarence Jay Lynch seeks to appeal the district court's order denying his Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b) motion for reconsideration of the district court's order denying relief on his 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (2000) petition. The order is not appealable unless a circuit justice or judge issues a certificate of appealability. 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(1) (2000); Reid v. Angelone, 369 F.3d 363, 369 (4th Cir. 2004). A certificate of appealability will not issue absent "a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2) (2000). A prisoner satisfies this standard by demonstrating that reasonable jurists would find that any assessment of the constitutional claims by the district courts is debatable or wrong and that any dispositive procedural ruling by the district court is likewise debatable. Miller-El v. Cockrell, 537 U.S. 322, 336-38 (2003); Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000); Rose v. Lee, 252 F.3d 676, 683-84 (4th Cir. 2001). We have independently reviewed the record and conclude that Lynch has not made the requisite showing. Accordingly, we deny a certificate of appealability and dismiss the appeal. We dispense with oral argument because the facts and legal contentions are adequately presented in the materials before the court and argument would not aid the decisional process.

DISMISSED

Exhibit L

Supreme Court of the United States
Office of the Clerk
Washington, DC 20543-0001
June 11, 2007

Mr. Clarence Lynch Prisoner ID 319339
Pulaski Correctional Center P.O. Box 1188
Dublin, VA 24084

Re: Clarence Jay Lynch
v.
Gene M. Johnson, Director,
Virginia Department of Corrections
Application No. 06A1153

Dear Mr. Lynch:

The application for an extension of time within which to file a petition for a writ of certiorari in the above-entitled case has been presented to The Chief Justice, who on June 11, 2007 extended the time to and including July 22, 2007.

This letter has been sent to those designated on the attached notification list.

Sincerely,

William K. Suter, Clerk
By [signed] Gail Johnson, Case Analyst

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